

St. Andrew Worship

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March 19, 2023
4th Sunday in Lent
Meeting Time
Sunday at 10:30 AM Worship

We are glad that you are worshipping online with us this morning and pray that your experience here is a blessing to you. If you are a visitor and want to know more about the church, please visit our website for more information and to contact us: www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org

Welcome and Announcement

Minute 4 Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing

Introit

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” arr. by Dean McIntyre

St. Andrew Bell Choir

Threshold Moment

Hymn 618

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High” (v. 1 & 3)

*O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
beyond all thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.*

*For us by wickedness betrayed, for us, in
crown of thorns arrayed, he bore the shameful
cross and death; for us gave up his dying breath.*

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

We are blind to many things.

Lord, cure our blindness.

The light of God shines for us today.

Lord, pour that light on us.

Come, worship God who forgives and heals your blindness.

Open our eyes, O Lord, that we might see opportunities to serve you. AMEN.

*Hymn 314

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
your holy people, light for the world to see.*

Refrain:

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gathered today.*

*Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for
hope, many despair. Your word alone
has power to save us. Make us your living voice.*

Refrain

*Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for
water, many still thirst. Make us your bread,
broken for others, shared until all are fed.*

Refrain

*Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for
warmth, many are cold. Make us your building,
sheltering others, walls made of living stone.*

Refrain

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

Refrain

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Healing God, we have languished in our blindness. We have chosen to hide in darkness in order to avoid reaching out and risking acceptance. We are afraid of the light, and yet we crave it. In your light, there is healing and hope, restoration and transformation. Forgive our lack of faith and our fearfulness, O Lord. Give us courage to reach out to the light and accept its healing rays. May our lives be transformed by your mercy, for we pray this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace

Even though you have lived in darkness,
God's light is being poured out for you.
Accept the light and love that is freely offered
and be transformed by its healing mercies. AMEN.

Gloria Patri

Anthem

“Via Dolorosa” by Dale Wood, transcribed by D. E. Wagner

St. Andrew Bell Choir

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer “O' Lord, Hear My Prayer”

*Hymn 451

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

*Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and
set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy
will to see. Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will
disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy
will to see. Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children
thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy
will to see. Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

*Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit,
that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

First Lesson:

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

Second Lesson:

John 9:1-17, 24-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

Sermon

“Open My Eyes”

Rev. Anne McAnelly

*Affirmation (Unison)

***We believe in God, maker of all things,
provider of all things, who loves all people.
We follow Jesus, in whom salvation has come to us:
he sees us for who we are,
heals the wounds of our hearts, and makes us new.***

***In his death and resurrection we see the deepest truth of life.
We live by the power of the Holy Spirit,
which empowers us for self-giving love.
We give thanks for the Church, the Body of Christ,
and for the gift of forgiveness,
the power of resurrection
and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.***

Doxology

Offering Prayer (Unison)

Everlasting Father, thank you that you are the light of the world, guiding our steps on your path. Your word says that the earth is yours, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to you. We recognize everything we have belongs to you. We acknowledge that our very lives belong to you. We now offer back to you a portion of what you have given us. May God the Father prepare our journey, Jesus the Son guide our footsteps and the Holy Spirit watch over us, on every path that we follow. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

*Hymn 749

“Come! Live in the Light”

*Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
Joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
to be light for the kingdom, to live in the
freedom of the city of God.*

Refrain:

*We are called to act with justice; we are called to
love tenderly; we are called to serve one an-
other, to walk humbly with God.*

*Come! Open your heart! Show your
Mercy to all those in fear! We are called
to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and
violence will be no more.*

Refrain

*Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that
great day when all will be one! God will reign,
and we'll walk with each other as sisters and
brothers united in love.*

Refrain

Benediction